

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 26, 27 and 29-31 have been amended and claims 35-41 have been added. Claims 1-25, 28 and 33 have been previously cancelled. Accordingly, claims 26, 27, 29-31 and 33-41 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 26, 31, 35 and 39 are independent claims. The Office Action indicates that claim 29 is objected to but would be allowable if presented in independent form.

Entry of the Amendments and Remarks is respectfully requested because entry of Amendment places the present application in condition for allowance, or in the alternative, better form for appeal. No new matters are believed to be added by these Amendments. In view of the above amendments and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending objections and rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Claim Objection

In the Office Action, claim 29 was objected to because of informalities. This objection is respectfully traversed because, in this response, claim 29 has been amended to cancel “the liquid crystal display further comprises a buffer layer covering the disconnected portions of the black matrix” Thus, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting

Claims 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the claims of U. S. Patent No. 6,781,651 in view of several references. This rejection is respectfully traversed because, in this response, to obviate the double patenting rejection, Applications timely file a Terminal

Disclaimer attached hereafter. Thus, withdrawal of the double patenting rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 26 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 5,926,235 issued to Han, *et al.* ("Han") in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,128,786 issued to Yanagisawa, *et al.* ("Yanagisawa"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

In this response, independent claim 26 has been amended to recite "a black matrix formed on said first substrate, wherein the black matrix is mesh-shaped with opening portions exposing pixel areas and *disconnected at portions thereof; ... a buffer layer covering a gap between the disconnected portions of the black matrix; ...*". The Examiner admitted that the cited references do not disclose or suggest this claimed feature.

Neither Han nor Yanagisawa discloses the claimed buffer layer covering the gap between the disconnected portions of the black matrix, as claimed. Also, in Yanagisawa, there is no motivation to cover the gap between the disconnected portions of the black matrix 16.

Thus, it is submitted that claim 26 is patentable over them. Claim 27 is dependent from claim 26 and would be also patentable at least for the same reason.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 26 and 27.

Claim 30 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Han in view of Yanagisawa and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,297,862 issued to Murade (“Murade”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 30 is dependent from claim 26. As previously mentioned, claim 26 has been amended and is now believed to be patentable over Han and Yanagisawa because, for example, they fails to disclose or suggest “*a buffer layer covering a gap between the disconnected portions of the black matrix*”, as recited in claim 26.

Murade does not show any disconnected portions in the black matrix 7, and hence would not be able to suggest covering a gap between disconnected portions of the black matrix 7. Since Murade fails to cure the deficiency from Han and Yanagisawa, it is submitted that claim 26 is patentable over Han, Yanagisawa and Murade. Claim 30 is dependent from claim 26 and hence would be also patentable at least for the same reason.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 30.

Claims 31 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Han in view of Yanagisawa and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,956,103 issued to Ishiguro (“Ishiguro”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

In this response, independent claim 31 has been amended to recite recites “forming a black matrix on an insulating substrate, wherein the black matrix is ... *disconnected at portions thereof*; ... forming a buffer layer covering a gap between the disconnected portions of the black

matrix; ...”. As previously mentioned, Han and Yanagisawa fails to disclose or suggest this claimed feature.

Ishiguro does not disclose or suggest the black matrix 2 being disconnected at portions and hence would not be able to suggest covering a gap between disconnected portions of the black matrix. Since Ishiguro fails to cure the deficiency from Han and Yanagisawa, it is submitted that claim 31 is patentable over the cited references. Claim 32 is dependent from claim 31 and would be also patentable at least for the same reason.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 31 and 32.

Claims 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Han in view of Yanagisawa, and Ishiguro, and further in view of Murade. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 34 is dependent from claim 31. As previously mentioned, claim 31 has been amended and is now believed to be patentable over Han, Yanagisawa and Ishiguro because they fails to disclose or suggest “forming a buffer layer covering a gap between the disconnected portions of the black matrix”. Also, as previously mentioned, Murade fails to disclose or suggest this claimed feature. Since none of the cited references discloses or suggests this claimed feature, it is submitted that claim 31 is patentable over them. Claim 34 is dependent from claim 31 and would be also patentable at least for the same reason.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 34.

New Claims

In this response, claims 35-41 have been newly added to cover broader concepts of the disclosed invention, of which claims 35 and 39 are independent. Claims 35-38 are directed to the structural aspect of the invention and claims 39-41 are directed to the manufacturing aspect of the invention.

Independent claim 35 recites “a black matrix formed on the substrate and disconnected at portions thereof; ... a buffer layer covering a gap between the disconnected portions of the black matrix”. Similarly, independent claims 39 recites “forming a black matrix layer on a substrate, the black matrix being disconnected at portions thereof; ... forming a buffer layer covering a gap between the disconnected portions of the black matrix layer”. The Examiner stated that these features are patentable over cited references. Thus, it is submitted that new claims 35-41 are patentable.

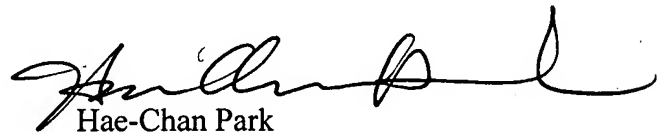
CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submits that all of the stated objections and grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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